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December 23, 2009

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **NOTICE TO TERMINATE A CONTRACT WITH LEWIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INCORPORATED, A DRUG/MEDI-CAL AGENCY**

This is to inform you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) is terminating its contract with Lewis Professional Services, Incorporated because of serious deficiencies and irregularities identified during their most recent audit. This agency is located at 400 South La Brea Avenue, Suite 102-104, 200-203, Inglewood, California 90301, in the Second Supervisorial District.

On November 5, 2008, the Board of Supervisors delegated the authority to the Director of DPH, or his designee, to terminate contracts with agencies for Drug Medi-Cal program services, following County Counsel review and approval, and notification to the Board and the Chief Executive Office.

Attached is a list of deficiencies found during the course of auditing the agency. The audit was conducted as a standard annual review of the agency's adherence to Title 22 and its contract with Los Angeles County. During Alcohol and Drug Program Administration's audit, many deficiencies identified last year were repeated and client interviews indicated billing irregularities, as described in the attached summary.

California State Health and Safety Code Section 11758.43 requires the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (SDADP) to contract directly with State-certified DMC providers when the County declines to contract with the provider. However, before it can do so, SDADP requires that the County Board of Supervisors inform SDADP in writing of its intent to not contract with the provider. The notification to SDADP has likewise been delegated to the Director of DPH or his designee.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:mak

Attachment

c: Jonathan E. Freedman
Sheila Shima
Robert Ragland
Doraine Meyer
Tami Omoto-Frias
John Viernes, Jr.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

List of Deficiencies and Contractual/Regulatory Requirements
Related to Drug/Medi-Cal Agreements

Lewis Professional Services, Incorporated dba Inglewood Area Alcohol & Drug Program

MAJOR DEFICIENCIES:

During the course of this audit, several major and serious deficiencies were identified. Some of these deficiencies were new and several had been previously identified in the agency's Fiscal Year 2008-2009 audit.

The following is a recap of the serious deficiencies as noted in the agency's full report:

1. Nine deficiencies noted in the Contractors last audit remain uncorrected.
2. Contractor could not provide sufficient documentation to corroborate much of its billings from June through September 2009.
3. Most client charts had missing or incomplete initial and updated treatment plans.
4. Most of the Contractor's documentation was completed late and lacked proper signatures and/or dates.
5. Some charts were missing progress notes and most notes that were in client charts were incomplete and rarely referred back to the client's treatment plan.
6. Sign-in sheets were unsigned by counselor and some failed to list the group's topic.
7. Information gathered during the phone interviews with alleged Clients HG2040861, LL292068, and SL2091054, revealed that Contractor has repeatedly billed for these individuals for group sessions that they stated they had never attended.
8. Contractor admitted that they had not performed any group sessions from October 1 through October 15, 2009, stating that they were "doing paperwork".

CONCLUSION:

Due to the serious and repetitive nature of these deficiencies, Alcohol and Drug Program Administration has initiated the process to terminate its Drug Medi-Cal contract and exhibits with Lewis Professional Services dba Inglewood Area Alcohol & Drug Program.